

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 L-02 FRB-03 OMB-01 TAR-01

SP-02 AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 STR-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 CEA-01

/065 W

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R 311657Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6303

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 02725

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD EC GATT

SUBJECT: COUNTERVAILING DUTY INVESTIGATION: FLOAT
GLASS.

REF: STATE 4584, 5078, 5142

1. EMBASSY IS CONCERNED ABOUT POTENTIAL REPERCUSSIONS
FROM THE COUNTERVAILING DUTY INVESTIGATION CONCERNING
FLOAT GLASS NOW IN PROGRESS IN FRANCE.

2. WE BELIEVE THE NATURE OF THE COMPLAINT ITSELF
HARDLY WARRANTS INVESTIGATION SINCE IT STATES THAT
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NEITHER FRENCH COMPANY HAS BEEN ABLE TO BENEFIT SIGNI-

FICANTLY FROM THE PROGRAM AGAINST WHICH THE COMPLAINT IS MADE. THE COMPLAINT REFERS TO ALLEGED BENEFITS TO TWO FRENCH COMPANIES FROM FRANCE'S REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT SUBSIDIES. HOWEVER, THE QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED IN THE INVESTIGATION ARE PHRASED SO BROADLY THAT THEY WOULD COVER PRACTICALLY ANY PAYMENT OR BESTOWAL OF ANY KIND, DIRECT OR INDIRECT, WHETHER RELATED TO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT SUBSIDIES OR NOT. THEY WOULD ALSO INCLUDE SUCH ITEMS AS TAX REBATES, INCLUDING VALUE ADDED TAXES.

3. WE BELIEVE FRENCH OFFICIALS ARE LIKELY TO VIEW THIS BROAD APPROACH IN THE CONTEXT OF U.S. PREPARATIONS FOR THE MTN. THEY WILL WONDER WHETHER WE ARE TRYING TO BUILD A CASE THAT REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS CONSTITUTE EXPORT SUBSIDIES OR THAT WE PLAN TO REVIVE THE OLD ARGUMENT ABOUT TVA TAX REBATES. COMING AS IT DOES SO CLOSE TO THE EC COUNCIL OF FEBRUARY 10 CONCERN-

ING THE EC NEGOTIATING MANDATE FOR THE MTN, THIS APPROACH IS NOT HELPFUL IN ENCOURAGING THE FRENCH TO ADOPT A MORE FLEXIBLE APPROACH, FOR EXAMPLE, REGARDING AGRICULTURE.

4. WE THINK INSTRUCTIONS TO CUSTOMS OFFICIALS SHOULD BE MODIFIED, SO THAT THE INVESTIGATION DOES NOT EXTEND BEYOND THE SCOPE OF THE COMPLAINT.

5. WE SHOULD ALSO LIKE TO NOTE THAT ACCORDING TO STATISTICS AVAILABLE HERE, U.S. IMPORTS OF FLOAT GLASS DO NOT EXCEED \$100,000 PER YEAR FROM FRANCE.

RUSH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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TAGS: ETRD, EC, GATT
To: STATE
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